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BABYLON

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BASED ON THE
GROUND-BREAKING
WARNER BROS.
TELEVISION SERIES



**MORETTI
NETZER
LEIGH**

DIRECT SALES

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**CAUGHT
IN THE
CROSSFIRE!**

BABYLON 5—
DOCKING BAY 94.

0422 HOURS.

HUH?
WHAT WAS
THAT?

WHO'S
THERE?

CALM
DOWN, COLBY,
THERE'S NO
ONE...

...THIS IS
NO TIME TO BE
NERVOUS.

YOU'RE
JUST DOING
YOUR JOB, JUST
HELPING
OUT.

LIKE
THE BOSS
SAID...

"...SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES IS A SIMPLE
ACT, TO *REWRITE HUMAN HISTORY.*"

0714 HOURS.

"BABYLON
CONTROL, THIS
IS MINBARI FLYER
ZHALAN REQUESTING
CLEARANCE FOR
TAKEOFF."

"YOU ARE
CLEAR TO
PROCEED,
ZHALAN."

"HAVE
A SAFE
FLIGHT."

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2151 HOURS—
THREE DAYS LATER.



ZETA SQUAD,
YOU ARE CLEAR TO
LAUNCH.

CONFIRMED,
BABYLON CONTROL.
WHERE TO?

IT'S A
DISTRESS CALL
IN GRID EPSILON.
I'M TRANSMITTING
LOCATION
NOW.

PROCEED
DIRECTLY TO
JUMP GATE. GOOD
LUCK, KEFFER.

GOT IT. TARGET
IS CROSS-LOCKED AT LAST
REPORTED POSITION.

KEEP THE
COFFEE HOT,
CONTROL...

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MORETTI
WRITER

MICHAEL
NETZER
PENCILLER

ROB
LEIGH
INKER

ROBBIE
BUSCH
COLORIST

TRACY HAMPTON
MUNSEY
LETTERER

TREASON



WE'LL BE
BACK BEFORE
BREAKFAST.

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McCANN
ASSISTS

LAURA
HITCHCOCK
EDITOR

BASED ON THE
WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES
BABYLON 5
CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI



"LIEUTENANT, I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU'VE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE. MY FIRST NIGHT OFF IN A WEEK— BUT YOU MANAGED TO GET ME OUT OF BED."



SORRY, LT. COMMANDER IVANOVA— BUT IT'S A WEIRD ONE. AN INTERMITTENT MAYDAY, BUT THEY WON'T GIVE THEIR POSITION OR I.D. CODE.

WE TRIANGULATED THE SIGNAL AND ZETA SQUAD WAS DISPATCHED TO—



EXCUSE ME, SIRS, BUT HERE IT COMES AGAIN.



ON SCREEN.

"—SKRKK— REPEAT, ALL SHIPS IN GRID EPSILON— SKRKK—"



"—THIS IS STARLINER CHIVODA-KU TO ALL SHIPS IN— SKRKK—"

"NO!— PLEASE, DON'T!"



"AAK!"





WOW.

THE
RAIDERS
AGAIN, LT.
COMMANDER.

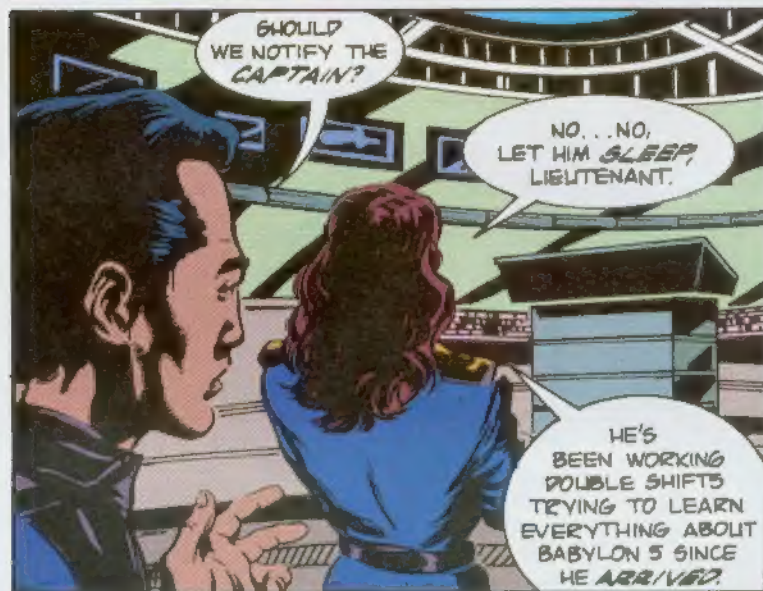
I DON'T
THINK SO.

THE PILOT
NEVER MENTIONED
AN ATTACK, AND
THERE WAS NO HULL
DAMAGE OR INTERSHIP
TRANSMISSIONS...
BUT I SWEAR I
HEARD PPG
FIRE.

SEEMS MORE
LIKE A HITACK
GONE BAD.
HMMM...

WHAT'S
ZETA WING'S
E.T.A.?

SEVENTY-TWO
MINUTES.



SHOULD
WE NOTIFY THE
CAPTAIN?

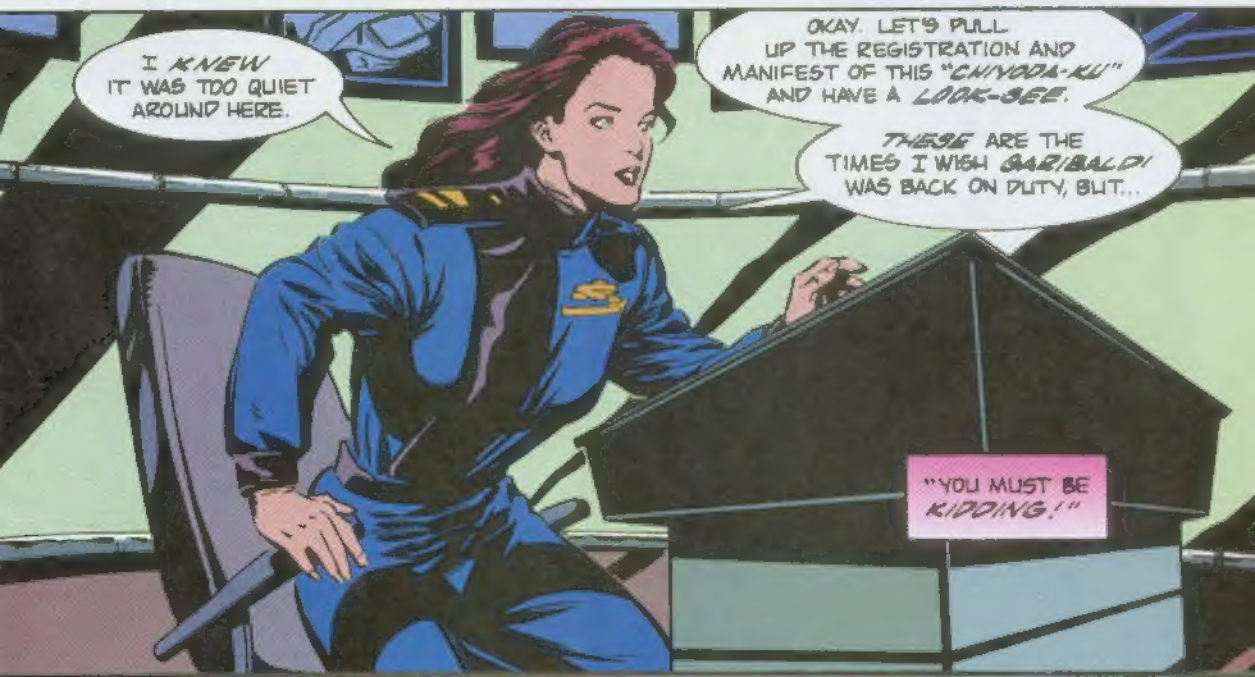
NO...NO,
LET HIM *SLEEP*,
LIEUTENANT.

HE'S
BEEN WORKING
DOUBLE SHIFTS
TRYING TO LEARN
EVERYTHING ABOUT
BABYLON 5 SINCE
HE ARRIVED.



THIS ISN'T
ANYTHING *WE*
CAN'T HANDLE,
RIGHT?

RIGHT,
SIR.



I *KNEW*
IT WAS TOO QUIET
AROUND HERE.

OKAY. LET'S PULL
UP THE REGISTRATION AND
MANIFEST OF THIS "*CNIYODA-KU*"
AND HAVE A *LOOK-SEE*.

THESE ARE THE
TIMES I WISH *GAR/BALD*
WAS BACK ON DUTY, BUT...

"YOU MUST BE
KIDDING!"



NOTHING'S
THE SAME ANYMORE.

PRESIDENT SANTIAGO'S
BLOWN AWAY, JEFF GETS
TRANSFERRED TO MINBAR.
THING'S'RE GOING TO HELL AND
I'M STUCK IN MEDLAB...!

SO, I'M GLAD
TO GET VISITORS. BUT THE
LAST GUEST WHO INDULGED
ME IN MY FAV—, UH, MY *SECOND*
FAVORITE THING IN THE UNIVERSE—
JUST DIDN'T GET IT.



BY THE WAY, HOW IS
PELENN? I HEARD ABOUT
HER "CONDITION."



BACK
ON MINBAR.
AMBASSADORIAL
DUTIES, I
THINK.

I'M
JUST
GLAD YOUR
OFFER
WAS STILL
OPEN.

HEY, IF I *KNEW*
THAT GETTING SHOT WAS
ALL IT TOOK TO GET YOU
TO STOP BY...

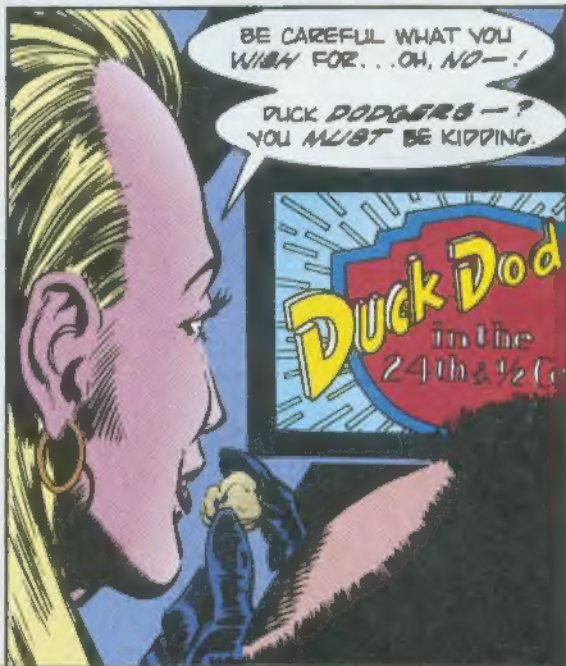


...I'D HAVE CONSIDERED
IT LONG AGO.

—THERE. IT'S
READY.



YOU
KNOW
WHAT THEY
SAV, MR.
GARIBALDI...



BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU
WISH FOR... OH, NO—!

DUCK DODGERS — ?
YOU *MUST* BE KIDDING.

Duck Dod
in the
24th & 1/2 C

3.8 PARSECS AWAY...

FINALLY,
THANK VALEN.

MINBARI FLYER
ZHALAN TO CRUISER
SOLARIS REQUEST
PERMISSION TO
DOCK.

PERMISSION
GRANTED, FLYER
ZHALAN. WE ARE HONORED
TO TRANSPORT THE SATAL
TO HOMEWORLD.
WELCOME.

"RACINE, WE'VE LEFT THE
JUMP GATE TWO DAYS EARLY.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?"

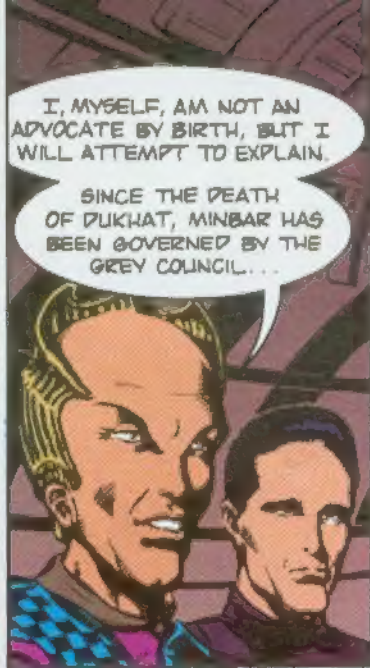
"NO, AMBASSADOR
SINCLAIR. WE MUST STOP TO
TAKE ON A TRANSFER."



SOMETHING TO DO WITH
THE CEREMONY?

YOU KNOW OF
THE SHI-KI?

A
LITTLE.



I, MYSELF, AM NOT AN
ADVOCATE BY BIRTH, BUT I
WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN.

SINCE THE DEATH
OF DUKHAT, MINBAR HAS
BEEN GOVERNED BY THE
GREY COUNCIL...



BUT THAT'S ABOUT
TO CHANGE.



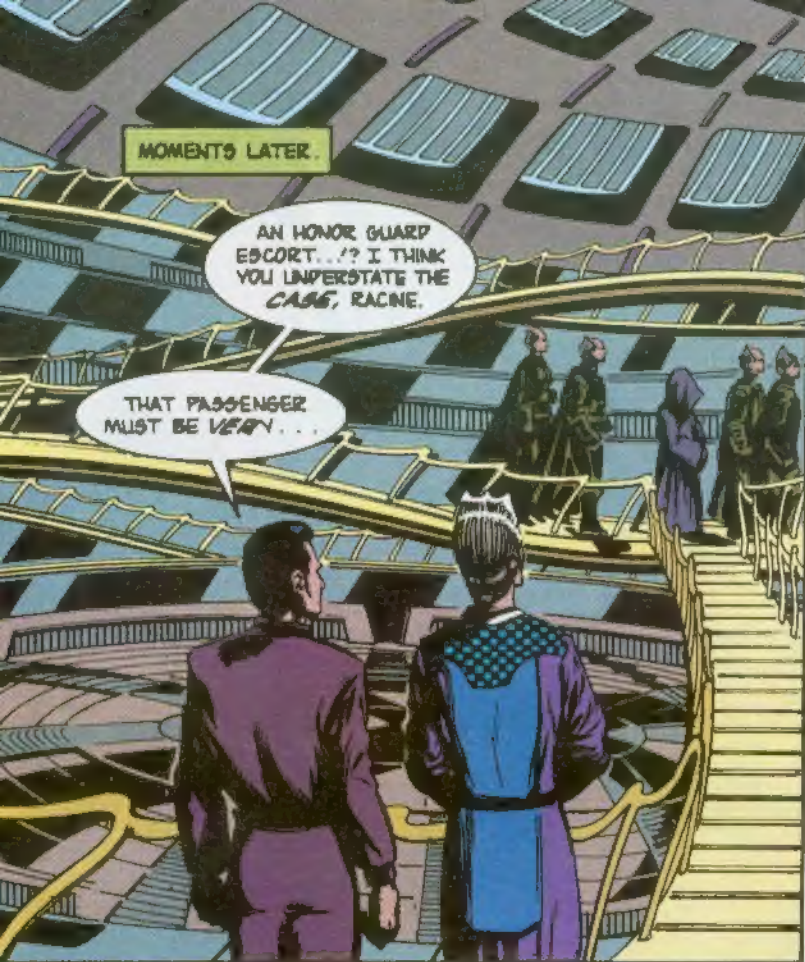
I WILL NOT ASK
HOW, BUT YOU ARE
WELL-INFORMED,
AMBASSADOR.

NOW, THE TEN-CYCLE
PERIOD OF MOURNING IS OVER,
AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE GREY COUNCIL
ARE GATHERING TOGETHER ON MINBAR
FOR A SPECIAL CEREMONY TO
INSTALL A NEW LEADER.

THE FLYER
IS CARRYING
AN IMPORTANT
PASSENGER...



...A MEMBER
OF THE GREY
COUNCIL WHO HAS
BEEN AWAY FOR SOME
TIME, BUT WAS ABLE
TO ATTEND AT
THE LAST
MOMENT.



MOMENTS LATER.

AN HONOR GUARD ESCORT...? I THINK YOU UNDERSTATE THE CASE, RACNE.

THAT PASSENGER MUST BE VERY...



IMPORTANT...



A—EXCUSE ME.

AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR—NO! YOU MUST NOT—



EXCUSE ME, BUT I—

STOP, HUMAN!



DO NOT APPROACH THE SATAI. IT IS FORBIDDEN.

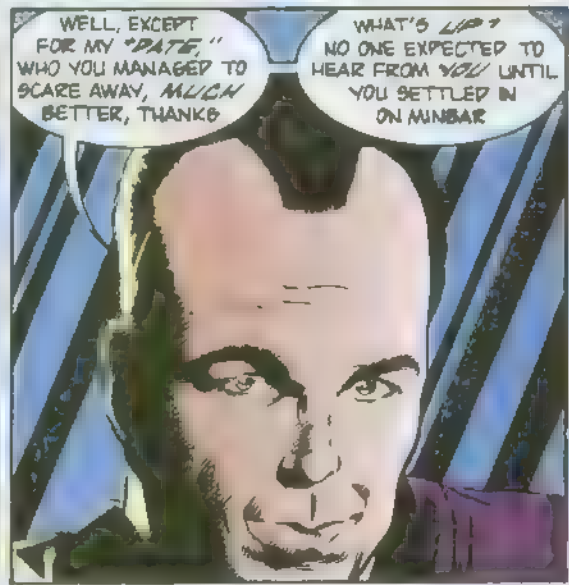
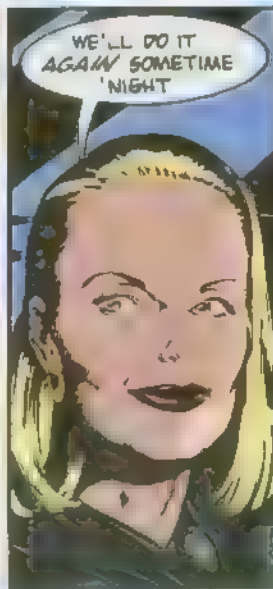
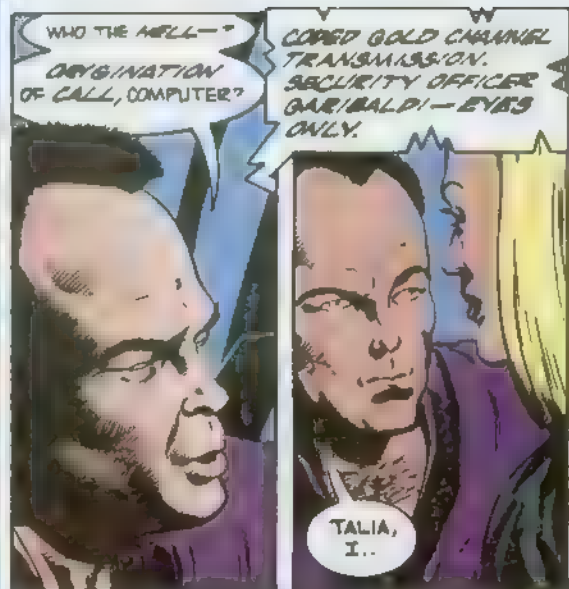


APOLOGIES, WARRIOR. THE EARTH AMBASSADOR... DOES NOT KNOW. PLEASE—EXCUSE US.



"THE STAR RIDERS ARE THE MOST MILITANT OF THE WARRIOR CASTES, AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR. IT IS NOT WISE TO... INTERFERE."

"I'M SORRY IF I CAUSED A PROBLEM, RACNE. BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE SATAI..."





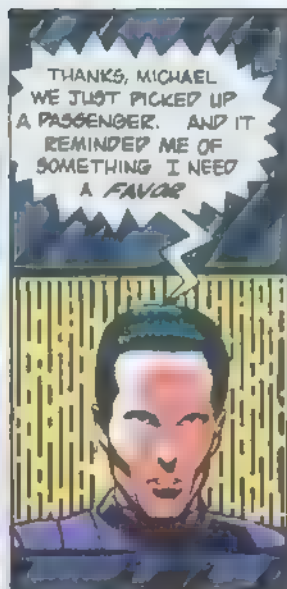
WE'RE STILL
EN ROUTE, BUT
I DIDN'T GET A
CHANCE TO SAY
GOODBYE—

—TO YOU
OR ANYONE
ELSE



HEY WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH A LOT
TOGETHER **BELIEVE**
ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE FOR
ANYTHING.

BESIDES, I HEAR THEY
DIDN'T GIVE YOU MUCH
TIME—OR A CHOICE



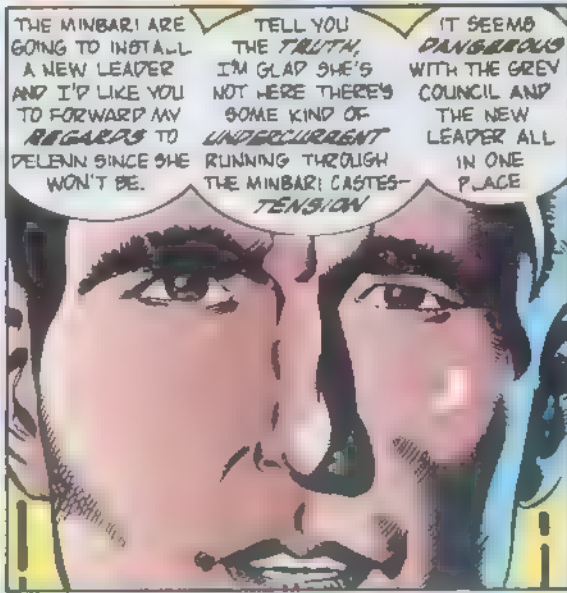
THANKS, MICHAEL
WE JUST PICKED UP
A PASSENGER. AND IT
REMINDED ME OF
SOMETHING I NEED
A FAVOR



NAME
IT WHAT CAN
I DO FOR YOU,
PAL?

I PROMISED TO MEET
AMBASSADOR DELENN THE
NIGHT YOU WERE SHOT

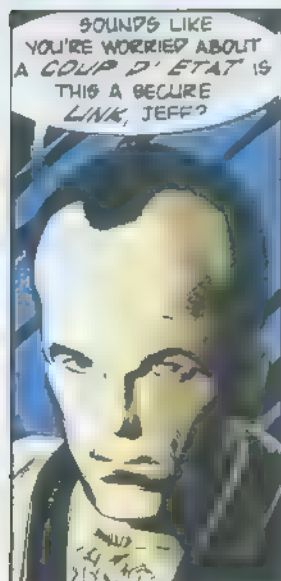
BUT BY THE
TIME I REACHED
HER SHE'D
COOCOONED
HERSELF



THE MINBARI ARE
GOING TO INSTALL
A NEW LEADER
AND I'D LIKE YOU
TO FORWARD MY
REGARDS TO
DELENN SINCE SHE
WON'T BE.

TELL YOU
THE TRUTH,
I'M GLAD SHE'S
NOT HERE THERE'S
SOME KIND OF
UNDERCURRENT
RUNNING THROUGH
THE MINBARI CASTES-
TENSION

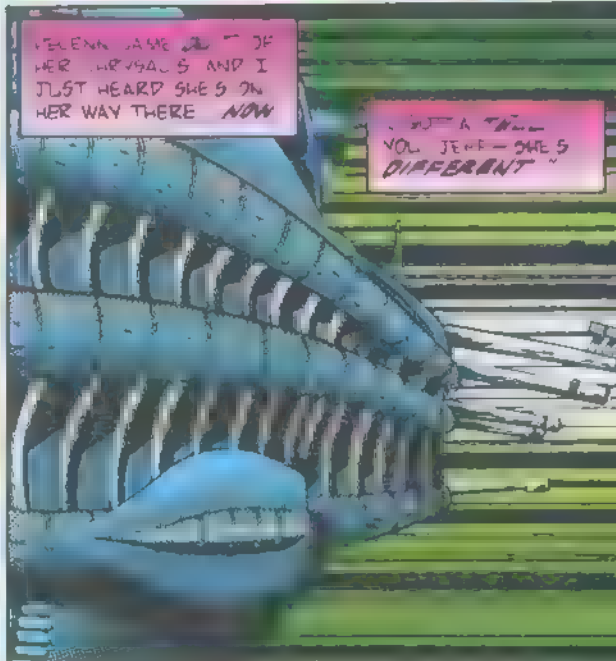
IT SEEMS
DANGEROUS
WITH THE GREY
COUNCIL AND
THE NEW
LEADER ALL
IN ONE
PLACE



SOUNDS LIKE
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT
A COUP D'ETAT IS
THIS A SECURE
LINK, JEFF?



I HOPE SO I AM
A DIPLOMAT NOW WHY?



DELENN JAVE A LOT OF
HER REVEALS AND I
JUST HEARD SHE'S ON
HER WAY THERE NOW

YOU JEFF—SHE'S
DIFFERENT

GRID EPSILON

THERE
SHE IS...
MAN, WHAT A
BEAUTY OF
A SHIP!

BABYLON CONTROL—
THIS IS ZETA WING

WE ALMOST MISSED HER
SHE'S READING VERY LOW POWER
LEVELS. NO COMMUNICATIONS, NO
LIFE SUPPORT SIGNS, AND

...OH MY GOD!

I CAN SEE
INSIDE...

THEY'RE ALL
DEAD!

IT'S A MESS,
CONTROL. WHAT DO
YOU ADVISE?

THIS IS LT. COMMANDER
IVANOVA, ZETA WING. ATTACH
GRAPPLING HOOKS AND TOW
HER BACK THROUGH THE
JUMP GATE



ROGER, BABYLON 5-- HERE
PULLING HER HOME. NOW
APPROACHING JUMP GATE



SEE YOU SHORTLY

"AH, *HERE* IT IS. . . REGISTRATION CODE FOR AN
EARTH LUXURY STARLINER, THE CHNOPA-KU. . ."

...WHAT?
COMPUTER SAYS IT'S
ALPHA-SIX ... CLASSIFIED
EYES ONLY?



TAKE
OVER, LIEUTENANT
CORONA AND WAKE
DR. FRANKLIN

TELL HIM
TO MEET ME IN
THE *BAY*.



I'LL ROUND
UP AN EMERGENCY
CREW

BUT KEEP IT *QUIET*
THIS SOUNDS UGLY, AND
I *DON'T* WANT TO DRAW
ATTENTION UNTIL WE
KNOW *MORE*.



DARK STAR DANCE CLUB. BROWN
SECTION—DOWNBELOW

YEAH, SHE'S A
BEAUTY—FOR
A HUMAN.

THINK SHE
HAS A PRICE?

DON'T THEY
ALL?

HA' HA'
HA'

NOT ALIENS KEEP
LAUGHING—
I WANT TO
REMEMBER THE
LOOK ON YOUR
UGLY FACES
WHEN—

HUH—? SECURITY LEVEL TRANSMISSIONS
COMING THROUGH, AT THIS HOUR?

JUST AS WELL I'M
SICK OF ALL THOSE
STUPID, DISGUSTING
CREATURES.
DOESN'T MATTER,
THOUGH ONE BY
ONE, RACE BY
RACE...

THEY'LL ALL
BE DRIVEN BACK
TO THEIR HOME
WORLDS

IF JACOB COLBY
HAS ANYTHING TO
SAY ABOUT IT

WITH PROPER
TRAINING AND
EQUIPMENT.

AND A QUICK MIND
I'LL ALWAYS STAY
ONE STEP AHEAD OF
EVERYONE...

ROGER, BABYLON 5—WE'RE
PULLING HER HOME. NOW
APPROACHING JUMP GATE

DAMN!

THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM

LET'S SEE...
MEDICAL
TECHNICIAN
DOCK WORKER
MAINTENANCE
AHH...

BABYLON 5
SECURITY THIS
SHOULD DO NICELY.

DAY SIX NINETY MINUTES LATER

"HERE'S WHAT WE'VE GOT, LT COMMANDER IVANOVA TWENTY-FIVE ABOARD—ALL BUT ONE DEAD. I'M NOT A FORENSICS EXPERT, BUT MOST APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ASPHYXIATED—AND SOME WERE SHOT, AS WELL."

"THERE'S NO PENETRATION OR LOSS OF HULL INTEGRITY JUST SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE FROM SMALL ARMS FIRE AND NO SIGN OF BIO-CONTAMINATION—BUT WE'LL WEAR BREATHERS TILL DECONTAMINATION IS COMPLETE, TO BE SAFE."

"THE SHIP'S DATA RECORDER IS MISSING ITS CRYSTAL, BUT THE LIFE SUPPORTS DIDN'T MALFUNCTION—THEY WERE MANUALLY SWITCHED OFF"

IT ALMOST ADDS UP, LT. LEEDS THE LONE SURVIVOR WAS SHOT, TOO—BUT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WEARING A BREATHING UNIT

YOU KNOW, I SWEAR I'VE SEEN THIS SHIP BEFORE

WORK ON IT RICHARDS?

THERE'S NO IDENTIFICATION ON ANY OF THE BODIES, COMMANDER

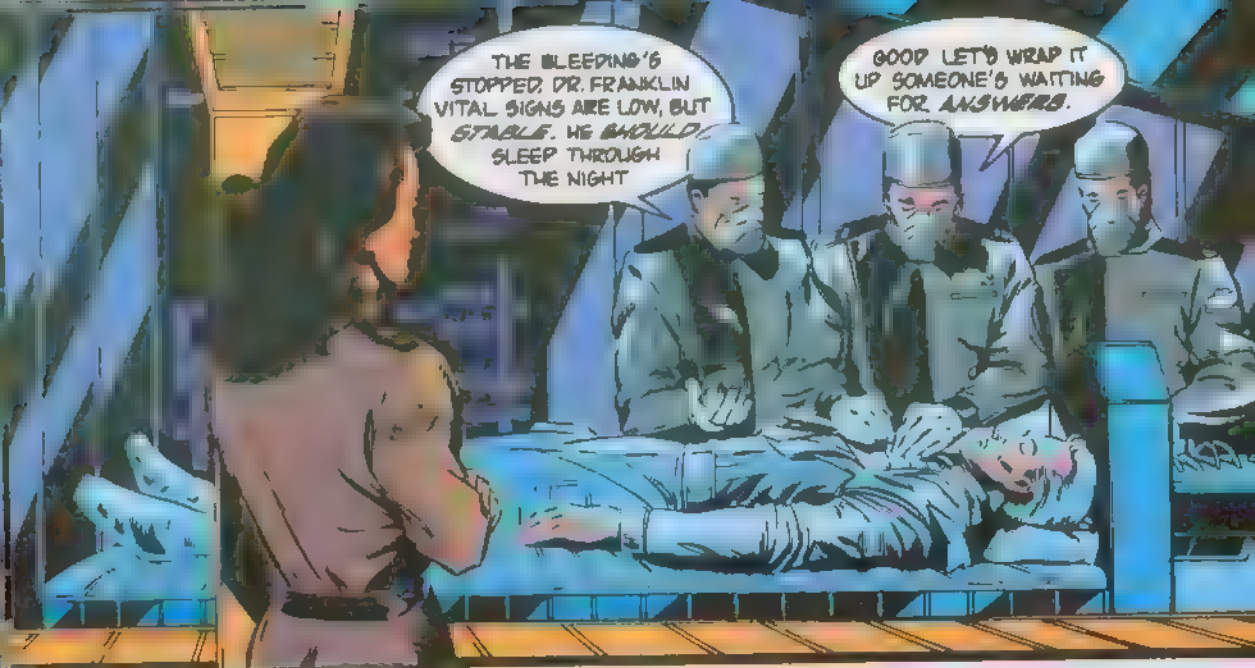
GREAT

GET ON THE NET, RICHARDS TRY EARTH CENTRAL. MUST BE A FLIGHT RECORD SOMEWHERE NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN AFFORD A SHIP LIKE THIS

THE REST OF YOU KEEP GOING OVER THE SHIP. IT MUST HOLD AN ANSWER I'LL BE IN MED-LAB IF YOU NEED ME

LET'S HOPE THAT SURVIVOR LIVES LONG ENOUGH TO GET US TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS

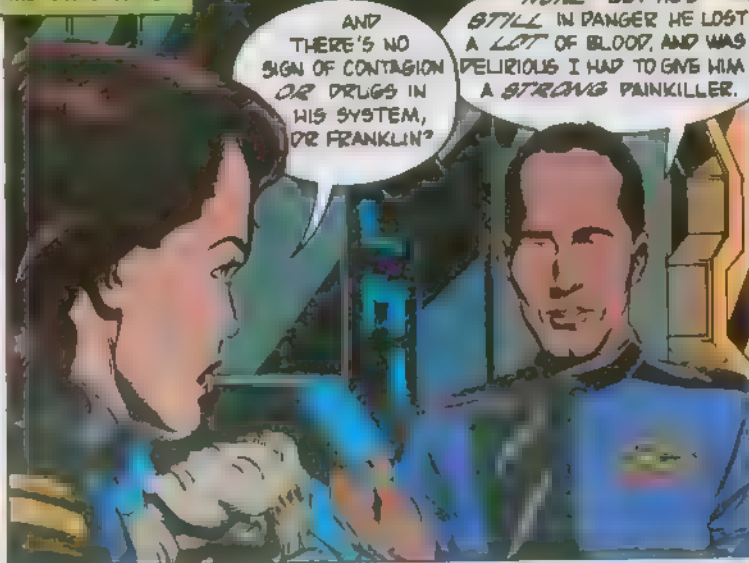
DON'T COUNT ON IT, LT COMMANDER HE'S THE LOOSE END I NEED TO TIE UP.



THE BLEEDING'S STOPPED. DR. FRANKLIN VITAL SIGNS ARE LOW, BUT STABLE. HE SHOULD SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT

GOOD LET'S WRAP IT UP SOMEONE'S WAITING FOR ANSWERS.

MOMENTS LATER



AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF CONTAGION OR DRUGS IN HIS SYSTEM, DR. FRANKLIN?

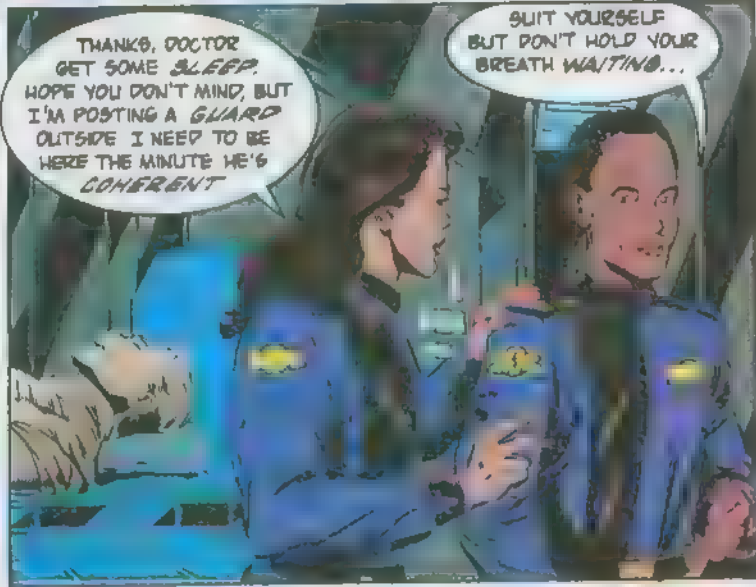
NONE BUT HE'S STILL IN DANGER HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, AND WAS DELIRIOUS I HAD TO GIVE HIM A STRONG PAINKILLER.



HE HAS TWO MAJOR PPG WOUNDS—ONE CLEAN THROUGH THE SHOULDER, AND A MESSY ONE ON THE NECK THAT'LL KEEP HIM FROM TALKING FOR A LONG TIME.



I CAN EXPLAIN HIS CONDITION, COMMANDER, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM



THANKS, DOCTOR GET SOME SLEEP. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I'M POSTING A GUARD OUTSIDE I NEED TO BE HERE THE MINUTE HE'S COHERENT

SUIT YOURSELF BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH WAITING...



0236 HOURS

PSSST
HEY.

MMMM

HAAMM ALIVE AND
TDO WELL I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU *SURVIVED* THAT
MESS ON THE SHIP



DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER, NOW



SO,
YOU'RE
AWAKE! LOOKS LIKE
I WAS
RIGHT
TO COME
AND—



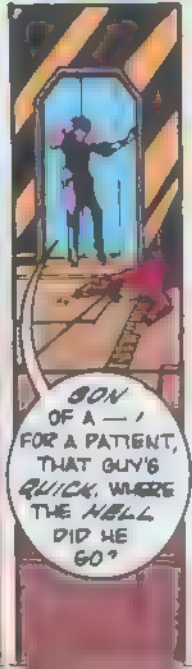
—ARRRGH!!



LNNMH



—!



SON
OF A — /
FOR A PATIENT,
THAT GUY'S
QUICK, WHERE
THE HELL
DID HE
GO?

0334 HOURS
COMMAND
AND CONTROL

UGH IF IT WAS A *SNAKE*
IT WOULD'VE *BITTEN* ME!
LEEPS WAS *RIGHT*. THE CHINODA-KU
WAS CONFISCATED BY EARTH FORCE
IN AN *ARMS-SMUGGLING*
BUST...TWO YEARS AGO!

LT COMMANDER
IVANOVA—THERE'S
AN EMERGENCY IN
MEDLAB!

GET DR FRANKLIN
DOWN THERE—

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT
HE'S ALREADY *THERE*. HE
WENT TO CHECK ON THE PATIENT,
WHO WAS *GONE*! THE
GUARD WAS *DEAD*!

AND,
COMMANDER—?

THE GUARD'S *GUN*
IS MISSING, TOO

DAMN! IT'S
STARTING TO *FIT*,
VERY NEATLY!

SIR?

SOUND A SILENT ALARM TO
ALL POSTS, DON'T LET ANY
SHIPS LEAVE THE STATION!
AND WAKE EVERY AVAILABLE
SECURITY OFFICER

YES,
SIR

PUT *EVERYONE* ON THE
LOOKOUT I WANT THE PATIENT
ALIVE IF *POSSIBLE*, BUT USE
EXTREME CAUTION—CONSIDER HIM
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



EARTH ALLIANCE EMBASSY IN
VEDOR, CAPITAL OF MINBAR.

NO MATTER HOW I *FEEL*
ABOUT THIS PLACE, IT *IS*
BEAUTIFUL. EVEN V R HOLO-
REPLICAS DON'T DO THE
PLANET *JUSTICE*.

IN A FEW HOURS, THE
NEW MINBARI LEADER
WILL PARADE THROUGH
THAT PLAZA. *HISTORY*
IN THE *MAKING*.

I SHOULD FEEL *HONORED*. I'M
THE FIRST HUMAN AMBASSADOR
EVER INVITED TO MINBAR.

AND YET, I'D *NEVER* HAVE *CHOSEN* THIS
ASSIGNMENT. STILL, I SUPPOSE I CAN GET *USED* TO
IT, AS LONG AS I HAVE AN OCCASIONAL...*VISITOR*.

COME IN.

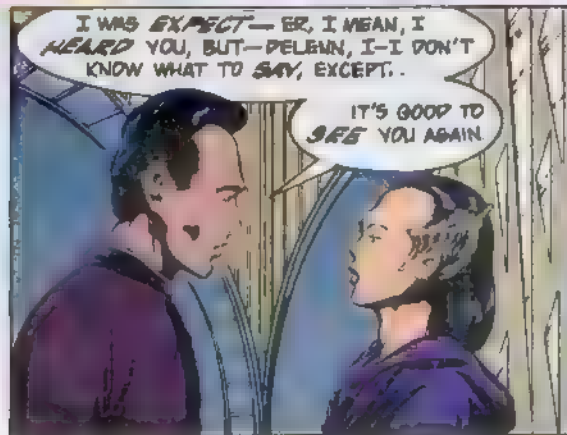
AH, AMBASSADOR DELENN!

I *THOUGHT* IT MIGHT
BE YOU WE PICKED UP ON THE
WAR CRUISER, BUT—



MY GOD! YOU—
YOU'VE CHANGED!

I AM SORRY TO ARRIVE
UNANNOUNCED, AMBASSADOR.
YOU SOUNDED, HOWEVER, AS IF
YOU EXPECTED ME.



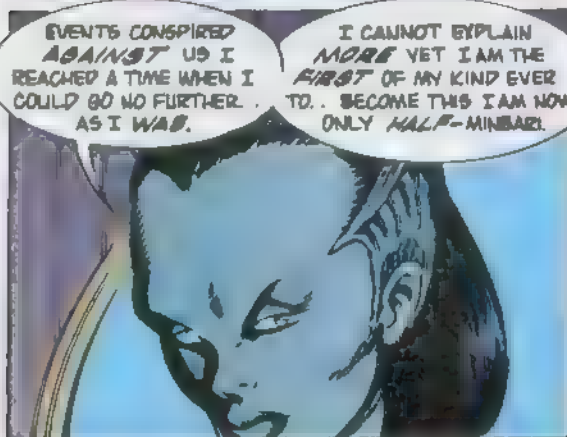
I WAS *EXPECT*— ER, I MEAN, I
HEARD YOU, BUT—DELENN, I—I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO SAY, EXCEPT...

IT'S GOOD TO
SEE YOU AGAIN.



YOU DIDN'T COME TO SEE ME IN *TIME*,
JEFFREY. NOW IT'S TOO LATE.

I STILL DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT,
DELENN.



EVENTS CONSPIRED
AGAINST US I
REACHED A TIME WHEN I
COULD GO NO FURTHER.
AS I WAS.

I CANNOT EXPLAIN
MORE YET I AM THE
FIRST OF MY KIND EVER
TO... BECOME THIS I AM NOW
ONLY HALF-MINBARI.



I AM ALSO
HALF-HUMAN.

0456 HOURS

...THEN YOU'LL
HAVE TO SWEEP EACH
SECTION AGAIN. OFFICER
WELCH. HE COULDN'T JUST
EVAPORATE INTO—

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

THERE'S ANOTHER
CALL. I'LL GET BACK TO
YOU. IN THE MEANTIME, START
OVER. DR. FRANKLIN SAYS HE
CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR
IN HIS CONDITION

IVANOVA
HERE

TALIA ? I HAVE AN
EMERGENCY SITUATION
NOW. WHATEVER IT IS WILL
HAVE TO WAIT

HOW DO
YOU — ?

BECAUSE HE'S IN MY
QUARTERS. DON'T ASK
A LOT OF QUESTIONS. JUST GET
HERE RIGHT AWAY. WE
DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME

SUSAN,
THE MAN YOU'RE
SEARCHING
FOR IS NAMED
DEXTER HALL

FREDRICKS, COBURN,
LET'S GO. ALERT ALL
SEARCH TEAMS — CONVERGE ON
LEVEL RED-FIVE, AT

DOWNBELOW

THE QUARTERS OF
TALIA WINTERS

THANKS AGAIN
FOR YOUR HELP,
LT COMMANDER I
DON'T MISS TWICE



STEP ASIDE, TALIA
THAT MAN KILLED A SECURITY
OFFICER HE'S DANGEROUS

NO, STOP! YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL WRONG, DEXTER
HALL'S A PSY-COP AND HE
CAN'T HURT ANYONE.

AFFIRMATIVE,
LT COMMANDER
HE'S ALIVE,
BUT OUT COLD

ALL
RIGHT,
TALIA WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

HE WAS TRYING TO FIND
A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE
PSY-CORPS. I'M LISTED AS
BABYLON 5'S RESIDENT TELEPATH,
SO HE CAME HERE. SOMEONE
TRIED TO KILL HIM TONIGHT
IN MED-LAB!

WHAT?!

HALL WAS WORKING
UNDERCOVER HE'D
INFILTRATED A HOME
GUARD/PRO-EARTH GROUP
ON THE CHYODA-KU
WHO BLAMED PRESIDENT
SANTIAGO'S DEATH ON
ALIEN GROUPS

BUT THAT DOESN'T
EXPLAIN...

HALL FOUND OUT THE MEN ON THE
CHYODA-KU SUPPLIED WEAPONS FOR AN
ASSASSINATION AGAINST A HEAD OF STATE HE WAS
DISCOVERED WHEN HE TRIED TO CALL FOR HELP

A FEW HOURS AGO HALL
COULDN'T EVEN TALK. HOW DO
YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

BECAUSE I PROBED HIM
THE PLAN IS ALREADY IN MOTION
SOMEONE IS WORKING WITH THEM
ON MINBAR—THE TARGET IS
THE NEW MINIBARI LEADER.

WE MUST DO
SOMETHING—NOW!

MINBAR.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JEFFREY, BUT I MUST ATTEND THE CEREMONY. WILL YOU BE JOINING US?

I'LL WATCH IT FROM HERE, WHERE I WON'T BE A...
DISTRACTION.

UNTIL THEN, AMBASSADOR—
KOZOR?

EXCUSE THE *INTRUSION*, SATAL. BUT I PREFER IT IF YOU WOULD *REMAIN* FOR A MOMENT TO ACT AS *WITNESS*.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I THINK YOU WILL, AMBASSADOR.

THESE ARE YOUR *BELONGINGS*, SINCLAIR?

YES, I'VE BEEN *EXPECTING* THEM. THEY WERE TRANSFERRED FROM BABYLON 5 ONTO DELENN'S SHIP.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? WHY ALL THE *FORMALITY*?

INSIDE THE FALSE TOP OF THIS SEALED CASE WE *FOUND* SOMETHING.

A LONG-RANGE *EARTH* WEAPON...

...ALONG WITH SCHEMATICS OF OUR NEW LEADER'S *CORONATION ROUTE*, PINPOINTING THE MOMENT IT WILL PASS BY YOUR WINDOW.



THE EVIDENCE INDICATES
OTHERWISE, SATAI.

NO! THIS HAS TO
BE A MISTAKE!

YOU SEE, SATAI. WE
INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE
FROM EARTH TO LIVE AMONG
US IN PEACE—AND THIS
IS HOW HE RESPONDS.

AMBASSADOR
SINCLAIR, YOU ARE
UNDER **ARREST**
FOR CONSPIRING TO
ASSASSINATE OUR
NEW LEADER.

WHEN YOU
ARE **CONVICTED**,
BE ASSURED WE WILL
DECLARE **WAR** AGAINST
EARTH FOR YOUR
TRASON.

**TAKE
HIM!**

TO BE CONTINUED...

B A B Y L O N

"It was the dawn of the third age of mankind... ten years after the Earth-Minbari war. The Babylon Project was a dream given form. Its goal: to prevent another war, by creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. It's a port of call, home away from home, for diplomats, hustlers, entrepreneurs, and wanderers. Humans and aliens, wrapped in two million, five hundred thousand tons of spinning metal... all alone in the night. It can be a dangerous place, but it's our last, best hope for peace. This is the story of the last of the Babylon stations. The year is 2259. The name of the place is... **BABYLON 5.**"

MAKEUP FOR AN ALIEN WORLD

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

With credits ranging from *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD* to *THE DARK HALF*, the makeup team of Everett Burrell and John Vulich is no stranger to... the strange.

And when offered the opportunity to create alien effects for the science-fiction television drama *BABYLON 5*, Vulich and Burrell, co-founders of Optic Nerve Studios, jumped at the chance to stretch their creativity. Since opening in 1989, Optic Nerve has risen to become one of the best up-and-coming makeup effects houses in the industry, but bringing a top level of quality to the small screen would be the studio's toughest job yet.

One of the most challenging aspects of taking over the *BABYLON 5* project from John Criswell (who created the alien effects for *BABYLON 5*'s two-hour movie premiere) involved modifying the design of the Minbari. The androgynous look that Minbari Ambassador Delenn sported in the pilot was deemed too harsh and unattractive, so Vulich and Burrell returned to designer Steve Burg's original concepts for inspiration. They abandoned the previously-used prosthetic chin extension and created a more subtle forehead appliance (a foam latex attachment).

The resulting design better incorporated actress Mira Furlan's natural features and gave the character a more angelic, feminine appearance. Last-minute inspiration provided the now familiar blue patterning seen on the heads of all Minbari, roughly analogous to human freckles.

In addition to refining the Minbari look, Optic Nerve's on-set makeup artists, including Greg Funk and Will Huff, worked to halve the prosthetic application time, from four hours to two. They began prepainting all appliances with the same "Shibui" prosthetic makeup that's also used to blend the appliances into the natural



Mira Furlan as Ambassador Delenn, *Babylon 5*'s Minbari liaison.

THEY WON THE EMMY!

During the intense first season spent creating alien makeup effects for *BABYLON 5*, John Vulich and Everett Burrell, co-owners of Optic Nerve Studios, often kidded that *B5* would be their ticket to the Emmys. But on July 21, they received a fax from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences that put all kidding aside. They had been nominated for a 1994 Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Makeup.

Running against well-established competition like *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE* and *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*, Burrell and Vulich knew they were the dark horse to win. As the new kids on the block, just receiving a nomination seemed significant. Nevertheless, on awards night, Vulich and Burrell were summoned to the stage, along with co-nominees Greg Funk, Ron Pipes, and Mary Kay Morse, to receive their own Emmy statuettes.

According to Vulich, "It was horrifying. Exciting, but horrifying."

"It was fun," says Burrell, "but my Emmy broke. I hope that's not a bad foreshadowing of things to come." Not likely, considering the Emmy recognition has already produced a number of interesting new job opportunities.

Greg Funk, one of Optic Nerve's key on-set makeup people, still seems a bit overwhelmed by the whole experience: "It's the most Hollywood thing I've ever done!"

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NEXT UP: IN HARM'S WAY

The crisis continues as Earth Alliance and the Minbari inch their way toward all-out war! Mark Moretti continues the story, and Carlos Garzon guests on art.

BEHIND THE SCENES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



John Vickery as Alit Neroon,
a Minbari warrior
from the episode "Legacies."

lines of the actor's face. Vacuumformed plastic templates were created to help the makeup artists air-brush correct blue patterns onto the heads of recurring Minbari players — thus saving time and insuring consistency from show to show.

Without a doubt, the Minbari have proven to be one of the most intriguing alien races to grace the small screen in some time. Not unlike ancient Japanese culture, the societal structure of the Minbari includes warrior castes (such as the Wind Swords), philosophical orders, and clandestine political organizations. Since they represent one of the "superpowers" of the B5 universe, Optic Nerve designers, such as John Wheaton, pay special attention to the development of all featured Minbari players.

In particular, much thought went into the trademark bone protrusion encircling the heads of the Minbari people. Originally envisioned as a kind of ceremonial headdress, it evolved into an actual part of Minbari physiology. It was further decided that female Minbari ritually carved their crowns to

achieve a more decorative effect (like getting their hair done), while males allowed their crowns to retain a more organic look.

Volich and Burrell took advantage of this physical feature when developing new Minbari characters, too. For example, characters pledged to a warrior caste, such as General Neroon (seen in the episode "Legacies"), were given bones with a rough, jagged look. On the other hand, the crown of Ambassador Delenn's assistant Lennier, played by *LOST IN SPACE* alumnus Bill Mumy, has a softer, more rounded design — evoking the image of fawn antlers, to emphasize the character's youth and innocence.

In the early episodes of B5, Minbari men apparently never had to deal with the tedious ritual of shaving. That changed, however, with the introduction of Draal, played by Louis Turenne, in the episode "A Voice in the Wilderness." Turenne was very "attached" to his facial hair, so it was agreed that the bearded look would be incorporated into his makeup.



Katsin, a rebel Minbari portrayed by
Richard Grove in the second season episode
"Points of Departure."



Veteran SF actor Bill Mumy in the role
of Lennier, Ambassador Delenn's
impressionable aide.

Volich and Burrell rationalized this anomaly as a reflection of the character's mystic, almost wizardlike qualities. They also decided that facial hair might appear in the future on characters representing the radical fringe of Minbar society.

A mysterious race, second only to the enigmatic Vorlons in terms of secrets, the Minbari have many exciting surprises — and revelations — in their future. Commitment to detail and quality by the Optic Nerve crew will help make those surprises some of the most fascinating in television science fiction.

RUSSELL JOHNSON

works at Optic Nerve as a project coordinator,
puppeteer, and sometimes bartender.